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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE
AND HOME ECONOMICS

United States Department of Agriculture and
State Agricultural Colleges, Cooperating

BOYS' AGRICULTURAL CLUB WORK
IN THE SOUTHERN STATES

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SPEEDING UP FOR WAR TIME.

WITH the older boys of the farm going out to defend the country, the boys under 21 years of age have a great opportunity for service in war time by contributing their time and labor to the production of food supplies of the country, and the boys' agricultural clubs are doing and can do more in that direction than any other organization of similar type in the country. This can only be done when those who have charge of the club work in the different States come to a full realization of the seriousness of the present situation and strive earnestly to reach the largest possible number of boys and inspire them to productive action. A zeal for the great cause for which this country is engaged in war, untiring effort, and devoted leadership are necessary to success.

It is possible under war conditions to organize not only the splendid regular club work, wherein the boys undertake to accomplish a certain set task both for the productive value and the agricultural training, but also to enlist large numbers of boys in emergency enrollments of what may be termed the junior or emergency division of the club work, who possibly do not set so high a standard but who do undertake to contribute measurably to the food supplies of the Nation. Furthermore, all such boys who devote labor and intelligence to this productive enterprise and who are grouped around the senior and regular club work would increase both the enrollment in the club work and the total food production of the boys' agricultural clubs. At the same time it would accomplish much in the way of training the boys in better agricultural methods and in giving them an opportunity to contribute to the winning of the war.

Bradford Knapp.

BOYS' AGRICULTURAL CLUB WORK IN THE SOUTHERN STATES.

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OBJECTS OF THE CLUB WORK.

Boys' agricultural club work is one of the main features of the agricultural extension work conducted by the Office of Extension Work in the South of the States Relations Service, United States Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the State agricultural colleges and other local agencies for the purpose of improving agricultural conditions and practices in the South.

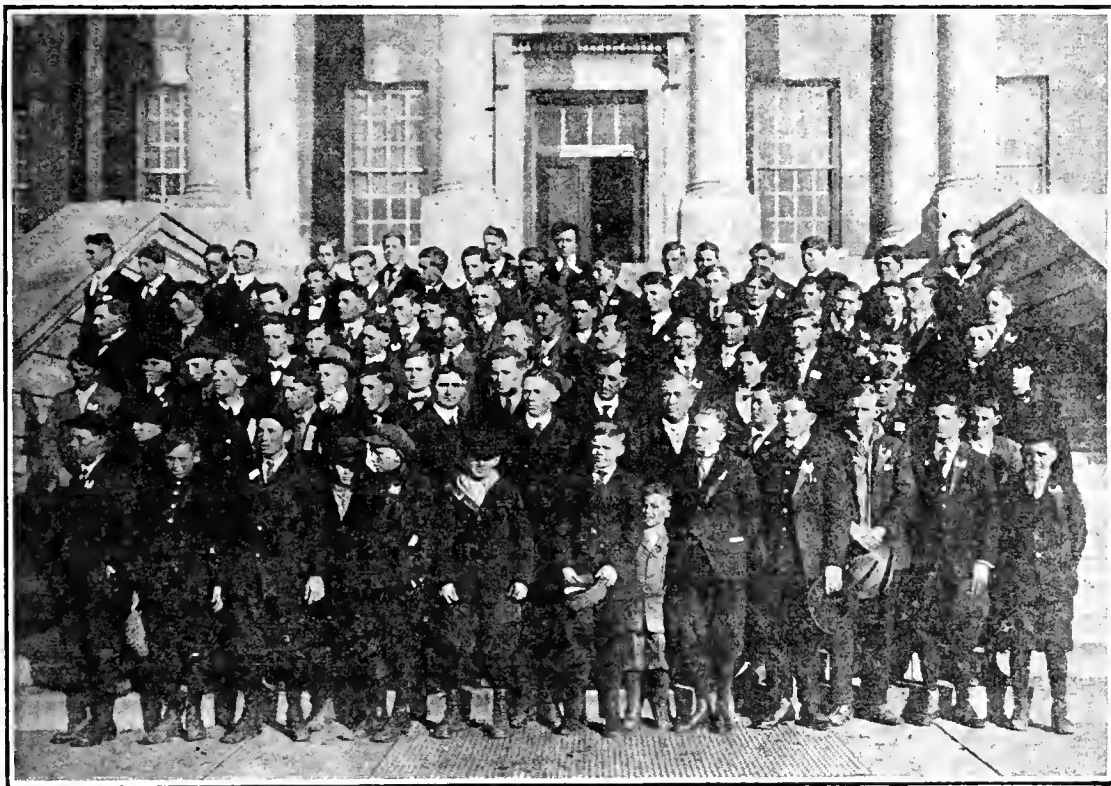


FIG. 1.—Boys' club prize winners attending a short course at their State agricultural college.

Many boys who begin the study of agriculture in the clubs continue it in the agricultural colleges. Scholarships in the short courses at the colleges are among the prizes given for excellence in club work. Such recognition and honor is a powerful stimulus to the club work.

The following are among the objects of the work:

1. To improve farm practices by instructing boys in correct agricultural methods.
2. To furnish an extensively organized means of effecting permanent improvement in agriculture and rural life.
3. To put into practice the facts of scientific agriculture obtained from books, bulletins, etc.
4. To assist in the development of the spirit of cooperation in the family and in the community.
5. To dignify and magnify the vocation of the farmer by demonstrating that labor intelligently applied to farming brings satisfactory returns.
6. To enlarge the vision of the boy and to give him definite purposes at an important period in his life.
7. To furnish to the rural schools and teachers object lessons which may be used to help them in teaching agriculture.
8. To make rural life more attractive by providing organization, which tends to diminish isolation and develop leadership.

KINDS OF CLUBS.

Boys' agricultural clubs in the South may be divided into two main classes: (1) Crop production clubs, including corn, kafir corn, milo maize, feterita, cotton, small grain, peanuts, potato, and crop rotation clubs; and (2) animal production clubs, including pig, calf, sheep, poultry, and bee clubs. In addition, what are known as farm makers' clubs have been organized for the benefit of negro boys. While other clubs may be organized to serve special needs of communities, it is thought best not to multiply clubs.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP.

The requirements for membership in the clubs should be few and simple; the fewer the better. Nevertheless a few simple regulations are necessary and will perhaps prevent misunderstandings and conflicts.

1. Boys joining clubs and entering contests must be between 10 and 18 years of age on January 1 of any given year.
2. No boy should be allowed to contest for a prize unless he becomes a member of the club and agrees to submit his reports.
3. Members of the clubs must agree to study the instructions sent out by the Office of Extension Work in the South and the extension division of their State agricultural college.

HOW THE CLUBS ARE ORGANIZED.

The first step in organizing the clubs is to secure the active cooperation of the extension divisions of the State agricultural colleges, and, where local conditions will permit, of State and county superintendents of education and others.

The best results are generally obtained when the following plan is followed in a county:

1. The local teacher organizes the club and sends the names and addresses of the boys to the county agent. In case there is no county agent in the county, the teacher sends the enrollment to the county superintendent of education.

2. The county agent, in cooperation with the county superintendent of education, directs the work in the county, holds county meetings, formulates the county rules, and settles all county contests. He receives the names and addresses of the boys from the local teachers and makes copies of them for his office, for the county superintendent of education, and for the State agent in charge of boys' agricultural clubs. When there is no county agent the county superintendents sends the names and addresses to the State agent in charge of boys' agricultural clubs.

Blanks for enrollment are furnished to the local agents and to superintendents, teachers, and other county leaders in the work. After club members have been legally enrolled local organization may be perfected through the assistance of the county agent or teacher. The county may be divided into four districts and districts into a good working number of communities situated convenient to roads, etc.

Each club should be under a committee of two public spirited citizens; one of whom should be the local teacher. Where local conditions permit each suborganization, viz, corn club, pig club, etc., may be sponsored by some business man who will keep up enthusiasm by offering prizes and thus creating friendly rivalry.

The club members should be made to feel their responsibility for the success of the club work. The boys should be made to realize that what they will get out of club work will depend directly upon what they put into it. They should elect their own officers from their membership and each officer should be held to a strict performance of the duties of his office. It is well for the boys to elect their own president, vice president, and secretary-treasurer in community clubs and in county organizations. It is often helpful if these officers, with one or two additional interested parties, constitute an executive committee.

Through a system of group meetings of community clubs in a district the county agent can come in touch with every boy for the purpose of instruction. By a system of this kind a greater number of boys may be reached than by the individual method, and the work can be made more interesting and instructive. By this means also the boys are taught the cooperative spirit and will be more likely to complete the work they have taken up. In conducting these meetings of instruction some definite object should be in view. Visits should be

made to inspect timely demonstrations of the various clubs, and some form of amusement, such as a baseball game between two community clubs, a swim, or the like, should be a part of the program.

CROP PRODUCTION CLUBS.

GENERAL BASIS OF COMPETITION.

The following rules, with such modifications as may be necessary to suit local conditions, should be followed in the plant club work:

1. Each boy must plant his own crop and do his own work; if a small boy, from 10 to 14 years, he may hire help for heavy plowing in the preparation of the soil. The hearty cooperation of the father of the boy is of great value.

2. Exhibits, accompanied by a written report and a written account, showing the history of the crop, must be made at a place designated for the purpose. Such exhibits may be held on a given day, either at the community or county fair, or, if no fair is held in the community or county, at the courthouse or some other convenient place.

3. The land on which the boy's crop is made must be carefully measured (fig. 2) and the crop weighed in the presence of two disinterested witnesses, who shall attest the boy's certificate. This certificate must show that the plat conformed to the unit of acreage of the crop.

4. The club plat must be all in one body.



FIG. 2.—County agent and club member checking up measurements of the club plat previous to harvesting.

The land on which the boy's crop is made must be carefully measured and the crop weighed in the presence of two disinterested witnesses.

5. In awarding prizes the following basis should be used in corn, grain, sorghum, small grain, cotton, and peanut clubs:

Basis of award for corn, sorghum, small grain, cotton, and peanut clubs.

	Per cent.
(a) Greatest yield per acre.....	30
(b) Best exhibit.....	20
(c) Best written account, showing history of the crop and how to select seed.....	20
(d) Best showing of profit on investment based on the commercial price of crop.....	30

The following basis of award may be used for a limited territory where the contests are on poor land:

	Per cent.
(a) For percentage of increase.....	30
(b) For profit.....	30
(c) For exhibit.....	20
(d) For history.....	20

In such cases a disinterested committee, or a demonstration agent, determines what would be the normal yield of the acre when turned over to the boy. In order that boys who have good land may not be debarred from State-wide competition an additional 30 points for yield may be added to the above. Within the limited territory the 30 points for percentage of increase would obtain, while in the State the 30 points for yield would be used.

Basis of award in potato clubs:

	Per cent.
(a) Greatest yield.....	40
(b) Best showing of profit on investment.....	30
(c) Best exhibit.....	15
(d) Best history on how I made my crop of potatoes.....	15

An exhibit of corn consists of 10 ears; of kafir, milo maize, or feterita, 10 heads; of cotton, 2 pounds of seed cotton and 10 open bolls; of peanuts, 1 peck of cleaned nuts and 10 vines; of potatoes, 1 peck of seed potatoes; of small grain, 1 peck.

In estimating the profits, uniform prices should be used. For instance, \$5 per acre, or \$1 for one-eighth of an acre, for land rental; 10 cents per hour for the work of each boy, and 5 cents per hour for each horse; \$2 for a two-horse load of stable manure, weighing about a ton; \$1 for a one-horse load of manure, weighing about half a ton; and the market price for commercial fertilizer. This plan of cost accounting has the advantage of great simplicity, but other methods of accounting may be adopted by special arrangement.

CORN CLUBS.

Corn was selected as the crop for the first club work because it is a typical American crop; it can be grown profitably in most sections of the South and it yields more per acre, when properly

handled, of those prime necessities, food and feed, than any other grain crop. Most southern boys are more or less familiar with corn and its comparatively simple methods of culture from childhood, and hence quickly learn through corn club work a more exact knowledge of the principles and possibilities not only of corn growing but of intelligent crop production in general. They learn that the growing of more and better corn is necessary to establish a more evenly balanced agriculture in the South and to provide food for her people and feed for live stock. The importance of corn in any rotation for soil building is impressed upon them. They come to recognize corn as the foundation crop for home use, and to understand that its extensive growth will lead to greater diversification in southern farming.

The unit of acreage in corn club work is 1 acre.

Measuring the crop.—The entire crop of the corn club acre in the husk should first be weighed when it is in a dry condition. Then weigh out 100 pounds separately. Husk and shell this 100 pounds and weigh the shelled corn. Multiply the weight of all the corn in the husk by the weight of this shelled corn. Point off the two right-hand figures and divide by 56. The result will be the yield in bushels of shelled corn. In every case where there is a prospective yield of 100 bushels or more, notice should be sent to the State agent in charge of boys' clubs in the State. A moisture-tight container will be sent for a sample of the corn, which will be taken before witnesses, as directed in the circular which will be forwarded to the contestant. This container should be sent by mail, under a frank which will accompany it, to the Bureau of Markets, Grain Standardization Investigations, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., where a moisture test will be made. This test is made in order to reduce all yields to an even standard. The Grain Standardization allows 14 per cent of moisture in No. 1 corn. Under this plan the same laboratory will make the tests for all the boys, and fair treatment is thus guaranteed.

KAFIR, MILO MAIZE, AND FETERITA CLUBS.

In addition to corn clubs, it has been found to be wise to organize other clubs. In western Oklahoma and Texas, where corn is not adapted to the climate, it has been found advisable to organize boys in kafir, milo maize, and feterita clubs. One acre is the unit for these clubs.

Measuring the crop.—Weigh the grain sorghum in the head when it is thoroughly cured. Then weigh out 100 pounds separately. Thrash the grain from this 100 pounds and weigh the thrashed grain. Multiply the weight of the grain in the head by the weight of the thrashed grain. Point off the two right-hand figures and divide by 56. The result will be the yield in bushels of thrashed grain.

COTTON CLUBS.

Cotton is a standard crop in the South and in any system of diversified farming must occupy an important place. Therefore a few cotton clubs have been organized for the purpose of teaching boys how to make the greatest yields at the lowest cost. The unit of acreage for cotton is 1 acre.

SMALL GRAIN CLUBS.

Small grain clubs have been organized in many States. These clubs should be organized wherever there is a demand for them. The unit of acreage is one or more acres.



FIG. 3.—A boy's acre of peanuts, illustrating especially the important lesson of clean cultivation.

Peanut growing is well adapted to club work and the importance of the crop is increasing in the South.

PEANUT CLUBS.

Peanut clubs were first organized in 1914 in Virginia. These clubs proved to be quite successful and have been organized throughout the territory adapted to the growing of peanuts. (Fig. 3.) The unit of acreage in peanut clubs is 1 acre.

Measuring the crop.—To determine the yield in bushels, weigh the peanuts in the vine when they have been thoroughly cured. Then weigh out 100 pounds separately. Pick the peanuts from this 100 pounds and weigh the picked nuts. Multiply the weight of all the

nuts and vines by the weight of these picked nuts. Point off the two right-hand figures and divide by 30, if the Spanish variety was grown, and by 22 if the Virginia variety was grown. The result will be the yield in bushels of picked peanuts. Subtract the results obtained after pointing off the two right-hand figures in the above from the entire weight of the peanuts and vines and the remainder will be the weight of the hay.

POTATO CLUBS.

Potato clubs should be organized wherever there is a demand for them. The unit of acreage in potato clubs is one-eighth of an acre.

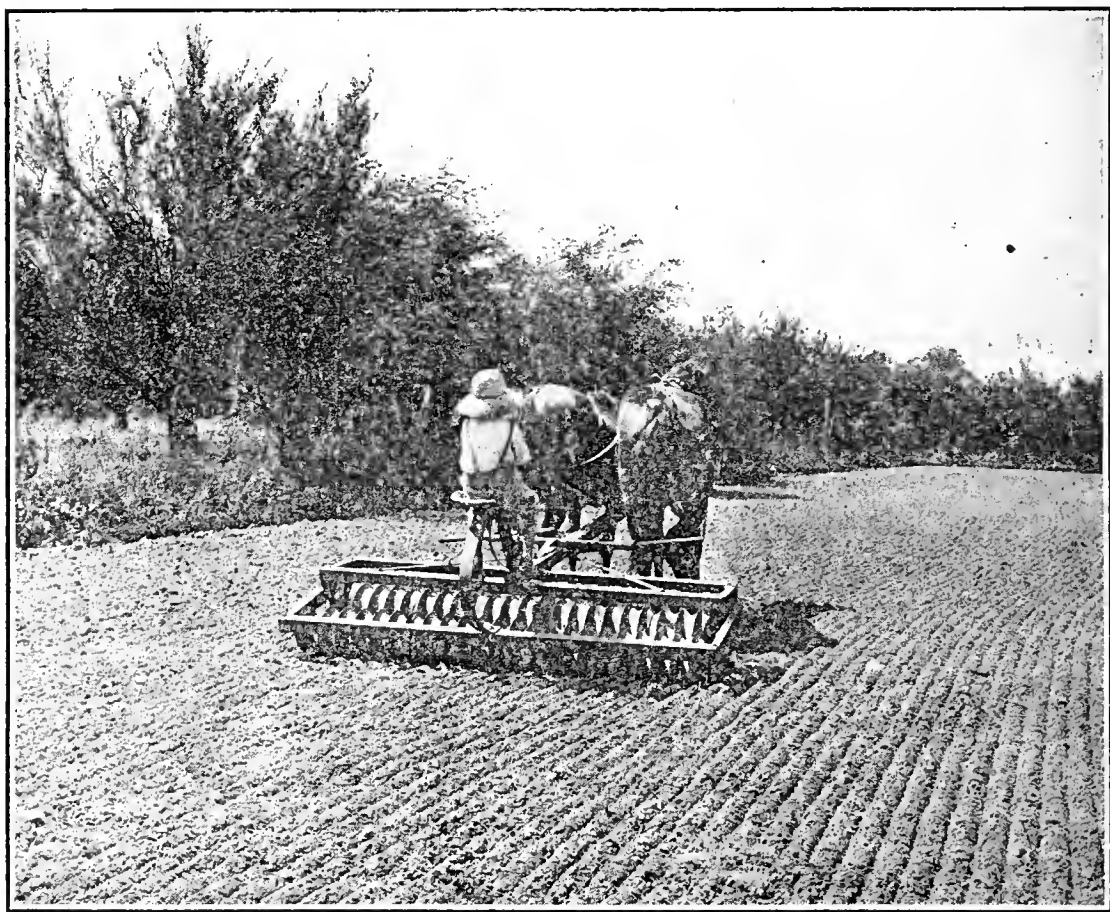


FIG. 4.—Boys' club member preparing a seed bed for crimson clover following wheat. Crop rotation is of the greatest importance in maintaining soil fertility.

CROP ROTATION CLUBS.

Crop rotation is of the greatest importance in maintaining soil fertility. It is essential, therefore, in teaching a better system of agriculture in the club work, that boys be led away from the "one-crop" system. Too frequently boys plant the same acre to corn or other crop year after year, thus putting into practice the very system which has impoverished the lands of the South. Therefore, it is earnestly recommended that crop rotation, with leguminous plants in the rotation, be practiced by all club members. (Fig. 4.) The same crop should not be planted on the same acre two years in succession.

The following schemes lead to a three-year rotation. These rotations, or a modification of them, will be found suited to conditions in the territory of the Office of Extension Work in the South:

Suggested three-year crop rotations.

	Field No. 1.	Field No. 2.	Field No. 3.
First year.....	Corn with legumes.....		
Second year.....	Small grain followed by cowpeas or other legume.	Corn with legume.....	
Third year.....	Cotton followed by small grain or crimson clover to be turned into soil.	Small grain followed by cowpeas or other legume.	Corn with legume.
Fourth year.....	Rotate.....	Rotate.....	Rotate.

Or—

First year.....	Corn with legume.....		
Second year.....	Wheat, crimson clover.....	Corn with legume.....	
Third year.....	Soy beans or cowpeas followed by rye to be turned into soil.	Wheat, crimson clover.....	Corn with legume.
Fourth year.....	Rotate.....	Rotate.....	Rotate.

This rotation can be applied on 1 acre.

OTHER CROP CLUBS.

In case of other crop clubs, unless particular rules applying to the special crops to be measured are supplied to the club member and his witnesses, that method must be followed which will completely satisfy the judgment of the witnesses that the yield they vouch for is correct.

ANIMAL PRODUCTION CLUBS.

To secure the best results there should be close coordination in the growing of plants and animals. When boys learn how to grow plants, they should be taught the best methods of utilizing the feed produced in the growing of animals. On the other hand, members of animal production clubs should whenever possible join plant clubs, using these as a means of providing a sufficient supply of feed for their animals. Those who know how to properly care for live stock should secure pure-bred stock and thus begin the building up of improved herds. (Fig. 5.) Valuable pure-bred stock, however, should not be entrusted to the exclusive care of boys inexperienced in the handling of live stock.

Pig, calf, sheep, and poultry clubs have been organized in the South in cooperation with the Bureau of Animal Industry and that bureau has placed a specialist in a number of States to cooperate with the agents of the Office of Extension Work in the South in the animal

production club work. The following basis of competition has been established for the animal production club work:

General basis of award for animal production clubs.

MEAT HOG.

	Per cent.
(a) Individuality, with respect to the purpose for which it is to be used-----	30
(b) Daily gain-----	20
(c) Cost of gain-----	30
(d) Records-----	20



FIG. 5.—The club boy and his pure-bred bull calf, the prospective sire of his future herd.

BREEDING HOG.

(a) Individual, best hog with respect to the purpose which it is to serve---	40
(b) Greatest daily gain-----	15
(c) Cheapest cost of production-----	25
(d) Best kept record-----	20

SOW AND LITTER.

(a) Best sow and litter, considering purpose they are to serve-----	25
(b) Average rate of gain per pig-----	15
(c) Cost of gain including keeping of sow from one breeding period to weaning time-----	30
(d) Percentage of pigs raised from total number farrowed-----	10
(e) Record-----	20

Where it is impractical to show the sow and litter at a State contest the following is suggested:

	Per cent.
(a) Success in raising pigs farrowed.....	40
(b) Business showing.....	40
(c) Best kept record	20

CALF, BEEF.

(a) Conformation and trueness to type.....	40
(b) Daily gain	15
(c) Cost of production.....	25
(d) Written report giving record of feeding home-grown feeds, labor, and management	20

CALF, DAIRY.

(a) Conformation according to breed score card.....	35
(b) Daily gain (birth weight of calf must be added to heifer's weight if calf is dropped before show time).....	30
(c) Cost of production.....	15
(d) Record based on report, feeding home-grown feed, corn, etc.....	20

SHEEP, BREEDING.

(a) Pen of lambs.....	25
(b) Fleeces, considering weight, quality, and appearance from 4 ewes, mothers of lambs as in (a).....	10
(c) Rate of gain on lambs (from 4 ewes).....	10
(d) Cost of production per pound of gain, including keeping ewes from breeding time until lambs are weaned.....	25
(e) Percentage of lambs raised to number born.....	10
(f) Record and written report of work done by member.....	20

SHEEP, YEARLING EWES.

(a) Individuality.....	50
(b) Record and report.....	20
(c) Fleece (where possible the previous year's fleece should be shown) ..	30

PIG CLUBS.

The pig-club work is usually of two kinds, fattening and breeding. In the first a grade animal is usually purchased and fattened for market; in the second, one of several plans may be followed: (1) A pure-bred gilt is secured and a litter of pigs raised for breeding purposes; (2) a pure-bred pig is secured and raised for breeding purposes; and (3) a good grade bred gilt is secured and a litter of pigs fattened for market.

CALF CLUBS.

Calf clubs are divided into the beef calf clubs and dairy calf clubs. The beef calf club work is of two kinds, fattening and breeding. Under the fattening work the club member secures a steer calf, spayed or martin heifer to be fattened for market. Under the breeding work the club member secures a calf and raises it for breeding purposes.

In the dairy calf club the boy may either purchase (1) a dairy calf and raise it to maturity, or (2) a bred heifer and raise the calf. The use of the bred heifer has given best results in the dairy calf club work.

SHEEP CLUBS.

Sheep are especially suited for club work because they make quick returns, when properly managed, for the initial outlay required. The club member soon learns their value as foragers and in building up soil fertility. As a result of his club work he will be able to establish at little cost the foundation of a well-bred flock of sheep against the day when he will have a farm of his own.

The most favorable unit for a sheep club is four or more bred ewes, though if it is impossible for a boy to procure so many he may start with fewer. After the club members have acquired experience they should be encouraged to undertake the raising of pure-bred stock.

POULTRY CLUBS.

In organizing poultry clubs it should be emphasized that members are not required to purchase any expensive equipment, such as incubators, or to build separate houses or yards, but should be urged to do the best they can by improving such buildings and equipment as they have at home. The only investment necessary is that of buying one or more sittings of pure-bred eggs from some reliable breeder.

BEE CLUBS.

In cooperation with the Bureau of Entomology bee clubs are being organized.

FARM MAKERS' CLUBS.

Farm makers' clubs for negro boys have been organized throughout the South. These clubs have the same unit of acreage and are governed by the same rules as the agricultural clubs for white boys. It is especially important that the members of these clubs be taught how to grow food and feeds.

HOW THE CLUBS ARE INSTRUCTED.

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. The county agent is the instructor of the county club on the plats of the members. He should give instructions on the preparation and fertilization of the soil, and the cultivation of the crops, and assist in obtaining correct results at the time of completing the year's work. He should insist on the selection of seed in the field (fig. 6), and assist members in disposing of such as seed. He should insist on the use of barnyard manure and emphasize the fact that it is usually worth more than the charges made for it. He should supervise the

selection of the animal and give timely instruction as to feeding and the care of animals. He should be assisted by the county superintendent of education in every way possible.



FIG. 6.—A boys' club prize winner instructing his younger brother in field selection of seed corn.

The foundation of successful crop production club work is proper seed selection.

2. The school officials should have a sympathetic attitude toward the work at all times. They should assist the boy in selecting and measuring his land, help him to understand the bulletins, circular

letters, etc., of instruction, visit his plat from time to time, encourage him to do his best, see that correct measurements are made at the time of harvesting, aid him in making out his report, and impress on him its importance.

3. Parents should assist their boys in all legitimate ways and encourage them to follow instructions closely. Under no circumstances should parents attempt to hinder the boy in carrying out the instructions given by the county agent. (Fig. 7.) In no case should "sonny's pig become daddy's hog."

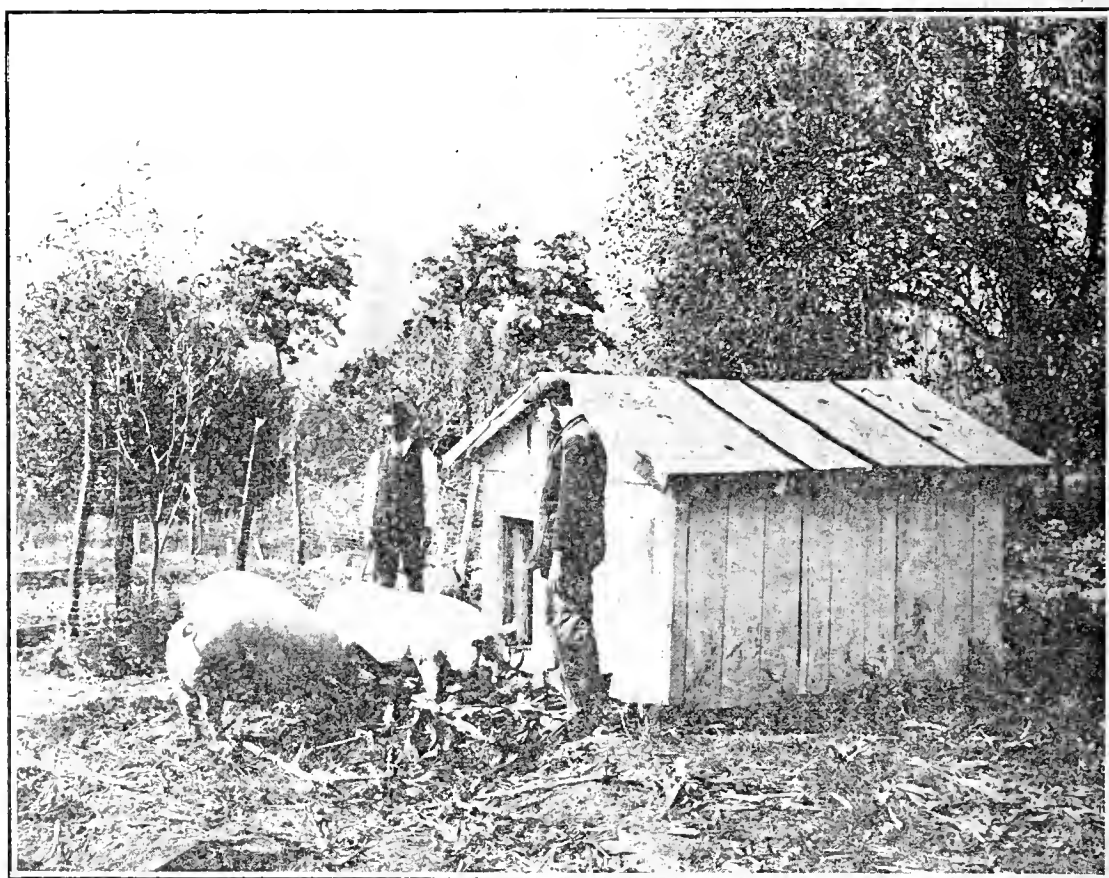


FIG. 7.—Instruction on the farm. County agent and club member inspecting the latter's pigs.

BULLETINS AND CIRCULARS.

Circulars of instruction on the preparation of the seed beds, the value and uses of home and commercial fertilizers, planting, cultivation, seed selection, etc., will be mailed from the college of agriculture to all the boys enrolled. From time to time circular letters calling special attention to various steps in raising their crops or growing their animals will be mailed to each of the boys. The circulars mentioned furnish excellent subject matter for discussion at club meetings or in schools. The United States Department of Agriculture and the colleges publish annually a large number of bulletins which contain most valuable information on many subjects of interest to farmers. From time to time the attention of the members of

the club will be called, by the county agents, to timely Farmers' Bulletins, which may be had free of charge upon request. Many of the boys study these bulletins and circulars and profit by the lessons and discussions because they are making practical application of the principles taught. The boy learns scientific agriculture because he needs it and not because it is scientific. A boy who has joined the boys' agricultural clubs and fails to receive the circulars of instruction on these various subjects should notify the State agent in charge of agricultural club work in his State, so that the error may be corrected.

The boys will also be furnished with crop-record blanks, detailing a method of keeping an account of the expense of production and specifying the steps to be taken in growing their crops.

A SUGGESTED FOUR-YEAR COURSE IN CLUB WORK.

The following four-year agricultural course is suggested for boys on the farm, no boy to be debarred from contests because of lack of literary training:

Suggested activities for a four-year course in club work.

Soils and crops.	Animals and feed.	Mechanical construction.	Organization and cooperation.
Corn. Small grain. Peanuts. Cotton. Potatoes. Etc.	Pigs. Beef calves. Dairy calves. Sheep. Poultry.	Hog houses. Hog pens. Silos. Barns. Poultry houses. Making and repairing farm implements.	Organization for community betterment along lines of sanitation, roads, marketing, buying, and recreation.

FIRST YEAR.

A. Demonstration.

1. One field crop, corn preferred.

B. Agricultural studies.

1. Agent's instruction on demonstration.
2. Bulletins on crop demonstration.
3. Lessons on crops and cost accounting.

C. Accounting and records.

1. Record book on crop demonstration.

SECOND YEAR.

A. Demonstration.

1. One field crop.
2. Pig.
3. Structures for animals.

B. Agricultural studies.

1. Agent's instruction on demonstrations.
2. Bulletins on demonstrations.
3. Lessons on crops and pigs and cost accounting.

C. Accounting and records.

1. Crop record book.
2. Pig record book.

THIRD YEAR.

A. Demonstration.

1. One field crop.
2. One or more animals.
3. Structures for animals.

B. Agricultural studies.

1. Agent's instructions on demonstrations.
2. Bulletins on demonstrations.
3. Lessons on crops, animals, and structures.
4. Lessons on organization and cooperation.

C. Accounting and records.

1. Crop record book.
2. Animal record book.
3. Construction record book with drawings, specifications, etc.

FOURTH YEAR.

A. Demonstrations.

1. One field crop.
2. One or more animals.
3. Structures for animals.

B. Agricultural studies.

1. Agent's instruction on demonstrations.
2. Bulletins on demonstrations.
3. Lessons on demonstrations.
4. Lessons and bulletins on organization and cooperation.

C. Accounting and records.

1. Record book on crop demonstration.
 2. Record book on animal demonstration.
 3. Record book on constructions.
 4. Record of all cooperative work and studies.
- Farm and home school diploma.

FAIRS AND EXHIBITS.

Exhibits should be made at community and county fairs, if possible. Where there is no community or county fair the exhibits should be collected at the courthouse or some other public place. Exhibits of this sort often lead to the establishment of a county fair, and they stimulate the work and give splendid opportunities for general instruction. Although the club exhibit starts with corn, its development naturally leads to the exhibition of other farm and garden products. (Figs. 8 and 9.)

BADGES AND EMBLEMS.

An emblem or badge has been designed for the boys' agricultural clubs, as shown on title-page, consisting of a book for the background, with a four-leaf clover and a lamp on the book. There are variations of this design for particular kinds of clubs in which a kernel of corn, a boll of cotton, a potato, or a pig takes the place of the lamp on the book. The word "Demonstrator" appears at the top of

the book and the name of the club below. Four "H's" appear, one upon each of the leaves of the four-leaf clover. The book and the lamp are intended to emphasize the necessity of education and definite knowledge of farm and home interests for better country life. The kernel of corn, or boll of cotton, or potato, or pig, denotes the special activity in which the boy is engaged, and the clover leaf combined with it is an emblem of the necessity of scientific training, rotation of crops, soil building, animal raising, and consequent larger education. The four "H's" signify the training of the head, hands, heart, and health, which are essential to the well-rounded life. The word "Demonstrator" has the same meaning as in the work with the farmer and signifies that every club member is a demonstrator of the better methods of modern agriculture.



FIG. 8.—Successful club members and their baby beef prize winners at a State fat stock show.

Badges or pins are not given out by the Department of Agriculture. They are often furnished free to members by those interested in the clubs, especially as a reward for excellent work during the season in raising their crops, or growing their animals. The cost is very small. In some counties the use of these pins has proved of assistance when given as a prize to every member who raises a crop or grows an animal and makes a final report and exhibit.

PRIZES AND AWARDS.

Thousands of dollars have been contributed in prizes and awards for club work during the past few years. It must be understood, however, that the United States Department of Agriculture does not furnish any money for prizes and is not offering prizes. In the extension work in the South it is found that considerable interest

can be added by securing offers of prizes from public-spirited citizens of the community or States. If the merchants and other public-spirited citizens of a community are visited and the work explained to them before the organization of the clubs, it will be found comparatively easy to raise a fund to cover the expense of giving prizes to the successful contestants. The chief prize in each State should be a year's expenses in an agricultural high school or college. The following additional prizes are suggested and have been offered in various States and localities: Trip to expositions, State and county fairs; scholarships in short courses in agricultural colleges and schools; different kinds of farm vehicles and imple-



FIG. 9.—A boys' agricultural club exhibit.

The club exhibit starts with corn but eventually includes various farm and garden products.

ments; registered pigs; pure-bred chickens; fine colts; registered calves; bicycles; shotguns; watches; articles of clothing; books on agriculture and horticulture; cash prizes, from \$2 up to \$20, etc.

It is better to offer many small prizes than a few large ones, as it furthers the interest if recognition and honor can be given for the excellent records of as many boys as possible. Some boards of trade and chambers of commerce have made direct appropriations for prizes and some have shown their recognition of the efforts of the clubs by giving the boys banquets and entertaining them at their meetings at the county seats with street car rides, and at fairs and on other occasions clubs have been honored by being invited to march

or appear in parades, attracting great attention. In some States the boys have been entertained in private homes during the time of the State fair or corn show, thus stimulating friendly and intimate relations between the rural and urban population.

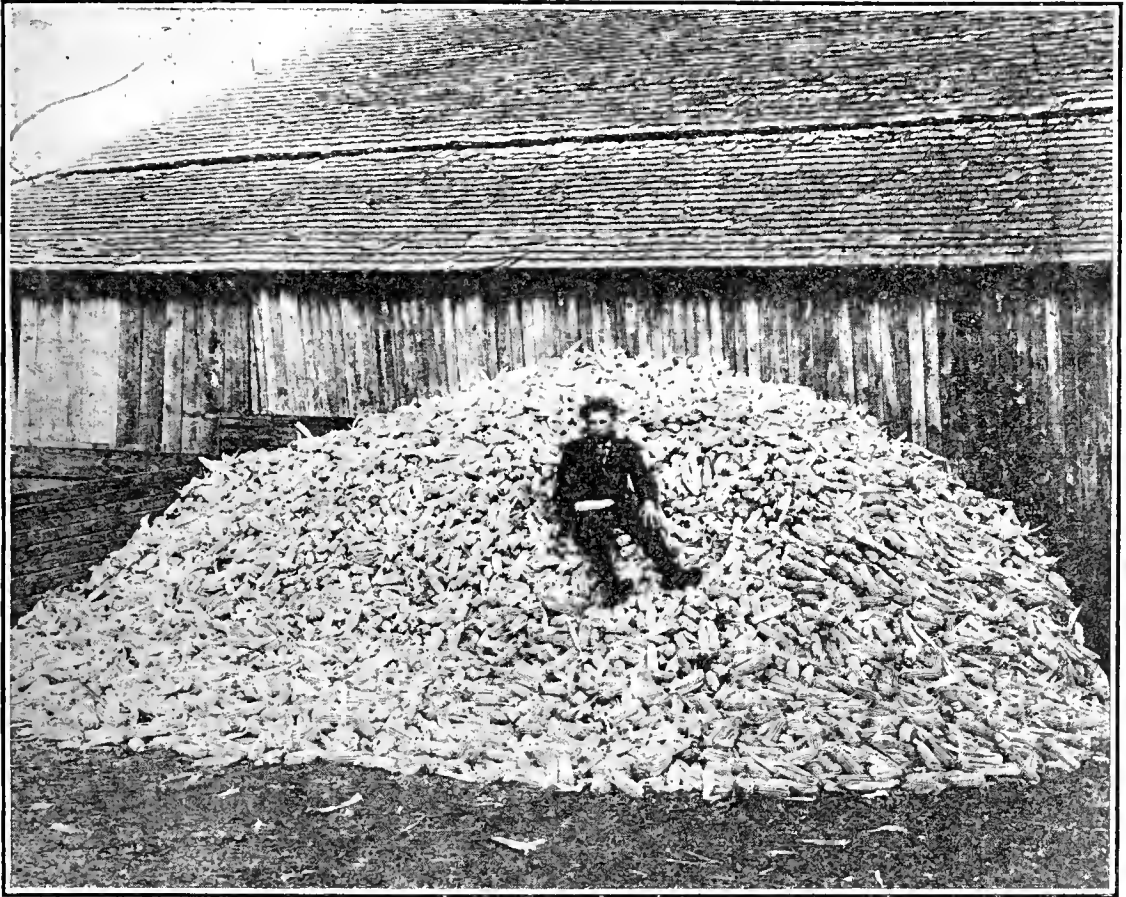


FIG. 10.—A Virginia boys' club member who grew 209 bushels of corn on his acre.

Labor intelligently applied to farming brings satisfactory returns and tends to make more useful and efficient citizens.

To further foster cooperative spirit, it is advisable to offer prizes to community clubs. A uniform record book should be provided for the secretary of each club, and it has proven advisable to send out suggestive programs for each month. Prizes should be offered for the best club in a county.

A suggested score card:

1. Largest number enrolled in a club.....	20
2. Highest average attendance at monthly meetings.....	20
3. Highest average grade of individual reports.....	40
4. Highest percentage of number making exhibits.....	20

Under (3) the grading should be based on yield or daily gain, history, profit, etc.

Under this plan the club as a whole is working for just the things the county agent and other club officials are working for. The prizes offered should be of a value that will excite the interest of the club.

ALL-STAR CLUB.

The All-Star Club of the United States in the future will be made up of boys who make the best records in their respective States. They and the prize winners who have come to Washington in the past alone are entitled to wear the "all-star" emblem. The all-star boys should receive certificates from the extension divisions of the State agricultural colleges.

The requirements for membership in the All-Star Club are uniform throughout the States. As indicated above, a special badge has been designed for boys in this club. Special contests should be arranged for members of the All-Star Clubs on a larger acreage.

RESULTS.

The object of the boys' demonstration work is the same as that among men, viz, to secure the adoption of better methods of farming and greater yields at less cost. (Fig. 10.) Many of the boys in the clubs who begin to study agriculture in this way will continue the study in the State agricultural colleges; others will continue such efforts on their farms, and all of them will make more useful and more efficient citizens as a result of their club work. The pleasant and profitable experience of owning and managing their club plats and animals will tend to develop them into independent, intelligent farmers. The country needs these farmers. Such a life offers great opportunities. The wise and judicious producer can enjoy health, wealth, and contentment. Moreover, proficiency in this work is good training for success in any line. The question is, How many boys can be reached and influenced thus to succeed?



